

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for determining if blood in a stool sample originated from the upper or lower gastrointestinal tract. This includes a method for purifying and concentrating hemoglobin and its' products from a stool sample to allow a simple and sensitive spectrophotometric analysis. A rapid, noninvasive determination of whether the blood originated from an upper gastrointestinal or lower gastrointestinal site is made on the basis of changes in the absorption spectra of hemoglobin that occur when hemoglobin is exposed to a highly acidic environment.